

**Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0014

Resource Identification

Property Name(s): WFF # D-010 – Gymnasium {Current}
Property Date: 1945
Address(s): Stubbs Boulevard {}
County/Independent City: Accomack
Vicinity of: Chincoteague
State, Zip: Virginia 23337
USGS Quad Name: CHINCOTEAGUE WEST
Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal
Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Roof	Roof - Gable		Roof - Original Replaced
Structural System	Structural System - Not Visible		
Windows	Windows - Sash, double-hung	Vinyl	Windows - Original Replaced
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		

Site Description: Located on a flat paved area surrounded by fields.

WUZIT Count:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Gymnasium	Historic

NR Resource Count:

Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Gymnasium

<u>Est. Date of Construction:</u>	1945 {Owner/written data}	<u>Accessed?</u>	Yes
<u>Primary Resource?</u>	Yes	<u>Number of Stories:</u>	2.0
<u>Architectural Style:</u>	Other	<u>Condition:</u>	Good
<u>Interior Plan Type:</u>	Irregular	<u>Threats to Resource:</u>	None Known

Description: The building is T-shaped in plan and has two main sections aligned perpendicular to one another: a gabled roof section toward the back that contains the gymnasium; and a front section with a flat roof aligned parallel to Stubbs Boulevard. A gabled roof addition was built onto the southwest end of the front section. One-story shed roof additions are located on the northwest and northeast sides of the rear section. A one-story, glass and steel entry vestibule has been added to the center of the southeast elevation. A set of concrete steps and a concrete ramp lead up to a concrete pad directly in front of the vestibule. A set of modern, galvanized steel fire escape stairs has been added to the northwest of the southwest addition and onto the northeast side of the front section. The entire building is constructed of concrete block covered with a modern, spray-on stucco finish. The rear section is seven bays long by three bays wide; each bay is identified by engaged piers. The windows of the building include single and paired six-over-six double hung aluminum replacement sash, single and paired one-over-one double hung windows, some of which have decorative mullion inserts, and single and paired eight-over-twelve single hung aluminum replacement sash. Many of the windows are covered by modern, aluminum triple track storm and screen window frames.

Cemetery Information

Bridge Information

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Bridge Information

National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Military/Defense

Historic Time Period(s):..... Q- World War I to World War II (1914-1945)

Significance Statement: This two-story building, built in 1944, has served as the gymnasium for the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS) and the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) main base. Originally, a portion of the building was used as a post office. The building was identified as the "Physical Fitness Bldg." on a 1944 facility map entitled "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. It was identified as the "Recreation Building" on the 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. It was again designated as "D-10" in the 1957 "General Development Plan – Naval Air Station, Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. The building is located at the corner of Stubbs Boulevard and Bond Street, near the geographical center of the main base, across Stubbs Boulevard from the Cafeteria and Photo Lab (001-0027-0034, WFF # E-002). A portion of the building currently contains offices.

This building is an example of a support building associated with a Military/Defense facility, built at the end of the World War I to World War II (1917-1945) period. The building was constructed as part of the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS). Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable the Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training at the base and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the based was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station. The building has retained some of its original use throughout its history on the base.

The Gymnasium & NSWC Office Building has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

As an individual resource, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D as it is not associated with a significant event or individual at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The building has lost its integrity due to alterations to the resource and its setting. The building's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship has been adversely affected by numerous additions, the replacement of the building's doors and windows, and the application of a modern, exterior finish material. Although remaining in its historic location, the building's integrity of setting, feeling and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding setting of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the building's historic context.

Bibliographic Documentation

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Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia."
1950.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: Giffles and Valet

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary
Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test
Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21527	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 19-24

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2003/08/08

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814

CRM Event # 2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2004/07/99

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878